

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made:

1. (Twice amended) A magnetic bearing assembly, comprising:

a magnetic portion connected to a shaft and a base for generating a radially repulsive magnetic [field]force and an axially repulsive magnetic [field]force, wherein said magnetic portion includes an upper magnetic portion and a lower magnetic portion which are [disposed symmetrically] symmetrically disposed in opposite orientations respectively[.]; and

a bearing portion connected to said shaft and said base for supporting said shaft upon rotation of said shaft connected to said shaft[.],

wherein each of said upper magnetic portion and said lower magnetic portion includes a first magnetic ring and a second magnetic ring connected to said base, and a third magnetic ring connected to said shaft,

said first magnetic ring and said second magnetic ring are in substantially axial alignment so as to interact in repulsion to provide said axially repulsive magnetic force, and

said third magnetic ring is substantially aligned with said second magnetic ring so as to provide said radially repulsive magnetic force, whereby said first magnetic ring and said third magnetic ring interact in repulsion to provide said repulsive magnetic force and keep the shaft axially positioned.

6. (Twice amended) The magnetic bearing assembly according to Claim [4]1, wherein said second magnetic ring and said third magnetic ring are disposed in radial alignment with each other to have like polar disposition.

7. (Twice amended) The magnetic bearing assembly according to Claim [4]1, wherein said first magnetic ring and said second magnetic ring are disposed in axial alignment with each other to have opposite polar disposition.

16. (Twice amended) A magnetic bearing assembly, comprising:

a lower magnetic portion connected to a shaft and a base for generating a repulsive magnetic force[field], wherein said lower magnetic portion [includes] has a first magnetic ring[,] and a second magnetic ring connected to said shaft, [and] a third magnetic ring connected to said base, and said first, second and third magnetic ring [that are disposed] being juxtaposed [in] along axial alignment [with each other to have opposite polar disposition] to produce axially repulsive magnetic force; and

a bearing portion connected to said shaft and said base for supporting said shaft upon rotation of said shaft.